

From: William McKee
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As an independent software developer and long-time personal computer enthusiast, I am writing to voice my concerns about the Proposed Final Judgement in the case of the United States v. Microsoft.

In particular, I am concerned with Microsoft's practices towards end-users such as restrictive licensing agreements (e.g., inability to use software on non-MS operating systems), intentional incompatibilities with non-Microsoft operating systems (e.g., Caldera), and non-backwards-compatible software upgrades.

It is vital to the existence of a free market that no individual company control the marketplace. The law of the United States has determined that, by its business practices, Microsoft has established monopolistic powers over the personal computer industry.

This monopoly injures computer users by stifling innovation and competition. Personal computer users are thus left with unreliable, insecure software (e.g., Outlook) and operating systems (e.g., Windows XP). To make users buy the latest version of their software, Microsoft stops releasing updates whether or not the newer software is better for the user or not.

As currently written, the Proposed Final Judgement does not, in my professional opinion, redress the problems which have established Microsoft's monopoly nor its business practices toward personal computer users who suffer the consequences of a monopolistic company. I refer you to the letter written by Dan Kegel for a more complete review of the problems with the proposed judgement.

I wish you wisdom in finding a solution that better addresses the public interest.

Respectfully yours,

William McKee
Lead Developer
Knowmad Services
Charlotte, NC

cc: Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001